

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) An automatic pill cutting device for cutting pills, the device comprising:

- a rotating indexing wheel which brings the pills to a cutting location;
- torsion fingers at the cutting location which help in centering the pills before cutting; and
- a blade for cutting the pills while stopped at the cutting location.

2. (previously presented) An automatic pill cutting device according to claim 1, wherein said torsion fingers include right hand and left hand torsion fingers.

3. (previously presented) An automatic pill cutting device according to claim 1, wherein said torsion fingers are spring loaded to allow cut pills to pass through and exit when said rotating indexing wheel moves the cut pills past the cutting location.

4. (previously presented) An automatic pill cutting device according to claim 1, wherein the indexing wheel holds said pills down and in place at the cutting location after said pills are cut.

5. (previously presented) An automatic pill cutting device according to claim 1, wherein the indexing wheel handles multiple pill sizes without change of the wheel itself.

6. (previously presented) An automatic pill cutting device, according to claim 1, further comprising:

a Geneva wheel mechanism which drives the indexing wheel, wherein the indexing wheel is removably coupled to the Geneva wheel mechanism.

7. (previously presented) An automatic pill cutting device, according to claim 1, further comprising:

a solenoid that causes said blade to move up and down in order to cut said pills.

8. (previously presented) An automatic pill cutting device according to claim 1, wherein said rotating indexing wheel can accommodate pills which do not exceed 0.187 inches in thickness and 0.500 inches in diameter.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus for cutting pills, comprising:

a cutting blade; and

an indexing wheel assembly arranged below the cutting blade, said indexing wheel assembly including a plate having a plurality of pill receiving locations and an indexing means for causing the plate to repeatedly rotate and stop said pill receiving locations in a position under said cutting blade, wherein said cutting blade moves in a plane perpendicular to said plate in order to cut pills located in said pill receiving locations and stopped under said cutting blade.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said indexing means comprises a Geneva wheel.

11. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said plate includes a plurality of cutting grooves each flanked by angled centering walls.

12. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

said plate includes top walls overlying said angled centering walls, said cutting grooves extending through said top walls, said top walls holding the pills down in place upon cutting by said cutting blade.

13. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a pair of torsion fingers arranged below the cutting blade such that when said indexing wheel brings a pill into position for cutting, said torsion fingers bias the pill against the centering walls.

14. (new) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

said indexing means comprises a Geneva wheel.